

REMARKS

Claims 19, 25, and 28-29 are amended. Claim 32 is cancelled. Claims 19-29, 31 and 34-36 are pending in the application.

Claims 19-29, 31-32 and 34-36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner indicates that there is insufficient antecedent basis for "the catalyst component" recited in claim 19. The Examiner further indicates that claim 19 is vague and indefinite. Claim 19 is amended to provide proper antecedent basis, to eliminate recitations indicated by the Examiner as rendering the claim indefinite, and to provide improved clarification. Claims 28-29 are also amended and have improved clarity. Claim 32 is cancelled. The amendments are believed to place claims 19-29, 31 and 34-36 in compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112 and applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the § 112 rejections of such claims.

Claims 19-29, 31 and 34-36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Mori, U.S. Patent No. 5,972,525. The Examiner is reminded by direction to MPEP § 2131 that anticipation requires each and every element of a claim to be disclosed within a single prior art reference. Claims 19-29, 31 and 34-36 are allowable over Mori for at least the reason that Mori fails to disclose each and every limitation in any of those claims.

As amended, claim 19 recites a catalyst support having an exterior surface, a metal oxide and a catalytic metal component, at least 5% of the catalytic metal component being disposed within pores that are at least about 10 microns away from the exterior surface of

the support. Claim 19 further recites a total pore volume with at least 20% of the total pore volume being contributed by pores having diameters of greater than about 20 angstroms. The amendment to claim 19 is supported by the specification at, for example, page 3, lines 14-15, page 7, lines 3-11, and page 10, lines 9-16.

Mori discloses solid particles having a pore volume of 0.1 to 1.0 ml/g, where "pore volume" refers to the volume of pores having a size of less than 1 μm (col. 4, ll. 38-45). Such disclosure does not teach the claim 19 recited total pore volume where at least 20% of the total pore volume being contributed by pores having diameters of greater than about 20 angstroms. Further Mori does not teach the recited at least 5% of the catalytic metal being disposed within pores that are at least about 10 microns away from the exterior surface of the support. Accordingly, independent claim 19 is not anticipated by Mori and is allowable over this reference.

Claims 25 and 28-29 are amended to properly depend from claim 19. Dependent claims 20-29, 31 and 34-36 are allowable over Mori for at least the reason that they depend from allowable base claim 19.

For the reasons discussed above, pending claims 19-29, 31 and 34-36 are allowable. Accordingly, applicant requests formal allowance of such pending claims in the Examiner's next action.

Respectfully submitted,

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